



## **News Bulletin**

### **For Immediate Release**

## **Storrs Center Partners Committed to Connecticut**

August 4, 2011

*(Mansfield, CT)* -- Through the years of planning Storrs Center, master developer Storrs Center Alliance, a sister company of LeylandAlliance LLC of Tuxedo, New York, and co-developer of the first two phases of Storrs Center, Education Realty Trust, Inc. (EDR), have pledged their commitment to creating a successful town center to serve the citizens of Mansfield and the surrounding region as well as the University of Connecticut.

“The development team for Storrs Center is committed to utilizing local companies and services whenever possible,” says Howard Kaufman, Managing Partner of LeylandAlliance. “Over the years, we have demonstrated this commitment repeatedly, both in the selection of key development team consultants and by the considerable payments made to these Connecticut-based companies, helping to support the local and state economy. Our commitment to hiring locally continues now that Storrs Center is under construction.”

Erland Construction, the contractor selected to build Storrs Center, is equally committed. "Erland Construction made a commitment to the Storrs Center developers to use state and local workers and companies on the vast majority of this project. We opened our office in East Windsor in 2009 to be accessible to this audience. Erland has successfully lived up to this promise in our hiring of subcontractors and will continue this practice throughout construction duration," said Chuck Vaciliou, Senior Vice President of Erland Construction.,” said Chuck Vaciliou, Senior Vice President of Erland Construction. “Ninety percent of the dollar amount of construction contracts made to date has been to Connecticut-based companies, representing \$15 million of construction costs. In addition, many of our Connecticut and Massachusetts subcontractors are using Connecticut-based suppliers.”

Storrs Center construction contracts awarded to Connecticut companies through August 1, 2011 have included Harvey Building Products, Berlin; Tobacco & Sons Builders, Bristol; Shepard Steel Company, Hartford; Shawnlee Construction LLC, Naugatuck; Hart Mechanical, Inc., Glastonbury; Interstate Electrical Corporation, Bloomfield; Otis Elevator Company, East Hartford; and Milton C. Beebe & Sons of Mansfield. Four of the project participants are certified Small Business Enterprises (“SBE”). Only two contracts made to-date have been to out-of-state companies.

Erland Construction is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For Storrs Center, the company has focused on hiring Connecticut subcontractors and utilizing local labor, suppliers, equipment, and materials whenever possible. It is estimated that approximately 174 jobs will be created in Phases 1A and 1B. The company conducted extensive hiring outreach for the project and sponsored a job fair in May which was promoted locally by the company and the Mansfield Downtown Partnership. Another job fair is scheduled for Thursday, September 8 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Mansfield Community Center. Storrs Center subcontractors will be participating.

Erland Construction is also committed to job safety and the company maintains a comprehensive safety program based on the continuous education of its employees.

“At Erland, we are committed to jobsite safety. We have an excellent track record and recently completed a strategic partnership agreement on a 115,000 square foot office project with the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) which achieved a Total Case Incident Rate that was about 32 percent better than the national average for Non-Residential Building Construction. We take pride in both our Safety Program and the excellent results of our partnership with OSHA,” states Vaciliou.

The company’s commitment to safety is formalized in its *Safety and Health Program* that demands a safe and healthy workplace for its employees, subcontractors, clients, and site visitors. Training and education include OSHA and industry-sponsored programs as well as Erland’s own weekly, mandatory onsite *Tool Box Talks* for subcontractors and employees. All Erland employees are required to attain OSHA 10-Hour Certification and the company regularly sponsors 10-Hour Safety Courses at its office. The OSHA 30-Hour Safety Course is encouraged for all employees and has been completed by the safety director and all field superintendents.

Storrs Center is an economic engine for the community. The project will support construction-related jobs at the project site on a temporary basis during the construction period. Construction workers will generate additional sales and activity for existing shops and retailers in the vicinity of the project area. Once operational, it is expected that the spill-over impacts of the project will also result in increased sales and activity for existing shops and restaurants adjacent to the project. At full build-out of Phases 1A and 1B of Storrs Center, the Town of Mansfield is expected to net approximately \$388,000 in tax revenue annually. The fiscal analysis can be found at [www.mansfieldct.org/mdp](http://www.mansfieldct.org/mdp). The Town's grand list will increase by four percent, and Storrs Center Alliance and EDR will become the Town's largest taxpayers.

Besides creating a wonderful, walkable environment for people to live, work and play, an important part of that success is helping to support the local and state economy as Storrs Center is built.

For more information about Storrs Center, please visit [www.storrscenter.com](http://www.storrscenter.com). A complete listing of "*Frequently Asked Questions*" is posted on the site and updated regularly.

**About LeylandAlliance LLC** LeylandAlliance is a real estate development company focused on the creation of mixed-use highly sustainable neighborhoods founded upon the principles of New Urbanism. The company, based in Tuxedo, New York, develops neighborhoods that foster a sense of community, embrace tradition, and set new standards for innovative construction and environmental responsibility. For more information, please visit [www.leylandalliance.com](http://www.leylandalliance.com).

**About Education Realty Trust** Education Realty Trust, Inc. (NYSE:EDR) is one of America's largest owners, developers, and managers of collegiate housing. EDR is a self-administered and self-managed real estate investment trust that owns or manages 56 communities in 23 states. For more information, please visit the Company's web site at [www.edrtrust.com](http://www.edrtrust.com).

**About Erland Construction** Erland Construction, with offices in East Windsor, Connecticut and Burlington, Massachusetts, is the region's leading open shop construction management, program management, design/build, and general contracting firm. The company has the specialized expertise for new construction, additions, and renovations in major market sectors including academic, residential, commercial, and healthcare. For more information, please visit [www.erland.com](http://www.erland.com).

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